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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Unforseen and extraordinary expenses

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/54/7), expressed the view that the time had come to review the levels specified in the biennial resolutions of the General Assembly on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. It requested that an analysis be submitted to the General Assembly at the first part of its fifty-fourth session, together with proposals, if necessary, for adjustment of the various levels specified therein.

The Secretary-General recommends the following:

(a) That the Secretary-General's authority to commit without prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee be increased from $5 million to $10 million for activities relating to the maintenance of peace and security;

(b) The revision of commitments that the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to (i) the designation of ad hoc judges (from $300,000 to $330,000); (ii) the payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges, and travel and removal expenses and installation grant of members of the Court (from $180,000 to $410,000); and (iii) the holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (from $50,000 to $25,000);

(c) If a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security, the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, up to $25 million, in excess of which the Assembly would be convened to consider the matter.

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I. Introduction

1. The Charter of the United Nations vests in the General Assembly the authority to approve United Nations budgets. The Assembly's biennial resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses makes provision for the Secretary-General, with certain conditions, to enter into commitments of an unforeseen and urgent nature without immediately reverting to the Assembly for approval of the required resources.

2. In its most recent such resolution, resolution 52/223 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the biennium 1998-1999, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising either during or subsequent to the biennium, except that the concurrence of the Committee would not be required for the following:

(a) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of $5 million in any one year of the biennium, as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security;

(b) Such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by (i) the designation of ad hoc judges (not exceeding a total of $300,000); (ii) the calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (not exceeding a total of $50,000); (iii) the maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected (not exceeding a total of $40,000); (iv) the payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges, and travel and removal expenses and installation grant of members of the Court (not exceeding a total of $180,000); and (v) the holding of sessions of the Court away from The Hague (not exceeding a total of $50,000).

(c) Such commitments, not exceeding $500,000, as the Secretary-General may certify as required for interorganizational security measures pursuant to section IV of General Assembly resolution 36/235 of 18 December 1981.

3. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Assembly resolution 52/223, the Secretary-General is required to report to the Committee and to the General Assembly all commitments made under the provisions of the resolution, together with circumstances relating thereto, and to submit supplementary estimates to the Assembly in respect of such commitments. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Secretary-General is authorized, with the prior concurrence of the Committee, to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $10 million to implement a decision of the Security Council. Should such commitments exceed that amount, the General Assembly would be convened to consider the matter.

4. The specific expenses and the corresponding resource ceilings certified by the President of the International Court of Justice relating to certain expenses from the activities of the Court have varied from biennium to biennium based on changing requirements in the activities of the Court. However, the levels of the Secretary-General's commitment authority relating to the maintenance of peace and security and to interorganizational security measures have not changed significantly. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68(I) of 14 December 1946, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to $2 million, which continued to be in effect until the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/203, increased his commitment authority to $3 million. By its resolution 48/229, the Assembly increased the level to $5 million.

5. In connection with interorganizational security measures established pursuant to section IV of General Assembly resolution 36/235 of 18 December 1981, the level of commitment authority was increased in 1991 from $300,000 to $500,000 by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/187 of 20 December 1991.

6. The limit of $10 million, which could be committed by the Secretary-General with prior concurrence of the Committee for commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security as a result of a decision of the Security Council, was originally introduced in General Assembly resolution 1615 (XV) of 21 April 1961. That level of commitment authority has remained unchanged.

II. Commitments authorized by the Secretary-General that he certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security

7. Pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) of General Assembly resolution 52/223, the commitment authority of the Secretary-General is exercised, without the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, for:

(a) Activities to be undertaken at his own initiative that he certifies relate to peace and security;

(b) Activities, other than peacekeeping activities, that result from decisions and actions taken by the Security Council.

8. Prior to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1994 on administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, recourse was also made to the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for requirements of the start-up activities for a peacekeeping operation established by the Security Council, either under the Secretary-General's own commitment authority of $5 million or with the prior concurrence of the Committee up to a level of $10 million. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/233, authorized the Secretary-General with the concurrence of the Committee to enter into commitments not to exceed $50 million per decision of the Security Council for immediate requirements related to the start-up phase of new peacekeeping operations or the expansion phase of existing ones. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses related to peacekeeping operations have also been authorized under the terms of that resolution. In view of the facility available to the Secretary-General under that resolution, his commitment authority under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures is no longer exercised for peacekeeping activities.

9. The question of increasing the level of commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General, without the prior concurrence of the Committee, for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures was raised in a report submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (see A/C.5/50/30). In that report, it was pointed out that the urgency and speed with which the Secretary-General is required to act on decisions of the Security Council made it necessary to increase the commitment authority of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General recommended, *inter alia*, that the commitments in any one year of the biennium that he certified relate to the maintenance of peace and security, under paragraph 1(a) of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, be increased from $5 million to $7 million.

10. The Committee, in its related report (A/50/7/Add.14 of 12 March 1996), did not support those proposals. It pointed out that the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses had been applied in the past to a number of activities that were not unforeseen but were of an ongoing nature. The Committee also pointed out that proper planning was also essential with regard to the management of authority granted to the Secretary-General.

11. The Assembly did not take action on the report of the Secretary-General, and the Secretary-General's commitment authority remained at $5 million.

12. In order to address the concerns of the Committee about the application of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to a number of activities that were not unforeseen and were indeed of an ongoing nature, a review was undertaken of actions taken by the Security Council regarding a number of missions which had been extended over the years on a regular basis. On the basis of that review, the Secretary-General submitted a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on revised estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council was seized (A/C.5/52/24).

13. In that report, the Secretary-General pointed out that there were a number of special political missions whose resources had previously been provided under the commitment authority granted by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General in its resolutions on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses but whose mandates had been extended with such regular predictability that they could no longer be considered unforeseen . Since no provisions had been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 for the continued funding of those missions and in order to obviate recourse to the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses during that biennium, an additional appropriation, mostly for the first year of the biennium, was requested in order to implement those activities of which the Security Council was seized. The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/221, approved the additional appropriation ($10,241,100) in the context of its approval of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

14. A further request for additional appropriation ($5,326,300) was made in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/53/693) for those political missions which had funding for only the first year of the 1998-1999 biennium and for other actions taken by the Security Council in respect of new special political missions of a continuing nature. Separate provision ($1,543,600) was also made for the United Nations Office in Bougainville (A/C.5/53/47).

15. The Secretary-General has, therefore, taken measures to ensure that special political missions, whose extensions occur with regularity, do not continue to be financed under the provisions of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

16. Furthermore, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the question of the recurring nature of activities related

to the maintenance of peace and security (A/C.5/51/57), in which it was illustrated that based on the pattern of expenditures of several bienniums relating to the maintenance of peace and security, there was a need to budget resources for such mandates ahead of their adoption. In its related report (A/52/7/Add.2), the Committee agreed with the Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/206 on the budget outline for 2000-2001, the Secretary-General has included, in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, a provision ($86,200,000) for special political missions related to peace and security that are expected to be extended or approved during the course of the biennium 2000-2001.

17. As to the Committee's concern about the need for proper planning with regard to the management of the commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General, it is often impossible to predict with certainty where areas of conflict will arise; where the good offices of the Secretary-General will be required for immediate action; when a United Nations presence and/or assistance will be required; or when the Security Council may decide to replace a peacekeeping mission by a political one. Activities undertaken within such political missions include but are not limited to human rights violations, reconstruction and development, agrarian reform, the rule of law etc. Examples of such cases include the special political missions in El Salvador, Cambodia, Rwanda/Burundi, Liberia, Somalia, Sierra Leone, and the Great Lakes region of Africa, all of which had initially to be financed under the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

18. Experience has shown that the withdrawal of a peacekeeping operation does not necessarily terminate the need for a United Nations presence in the area concerned. As activities related to post-conflict resolution, the democratization process and reconciliation and peace-building become more diversified and intense, the need to have adequate procedures in place that will allow the Organization to take prompt and urgent action becomes more pressing. Protracted negotiation processes combined with the need to respond quickly often make it necessary for the Secretary-General to draw on the authority granted to him by the General Assembly, without the prior concurrence of the Committee, to enter into commitments for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses on an urgent and timely basis.

19. While recurring activities related to peace and security are now included in the programme budget, ad hoc activities with limited duration, of an unforeseen and urgent nature, continue to occur throughout the year. It is recognized that proper planning is essential for the management of the commitment authority granted to the Secretary-General, but the very nature of unforeseen activities makes it impossible to anticipate with any degree of accuracy the timing and level of their requirements. When such unforeseen activities occur, they require immediate attention. In those circumstances, the Secretary-General, upon certification that they relate to the maintenance of peace and security, and without the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee, enters into commitments to incur expenditures against the $5 million granted to him by the General Assembly.

20. Table 1 provides a summary of commitments authorized by the Secretary-General in 1998-1999 under General Assembly resolution 52/223 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, without prior concurrence of the Committee, including the date of action taken by the Security Council and the relevant document references.

21. A number of Member States have recognized the need for the Secretary-General to deal on an urgent and timely basis with unforeseen and extraordinary expenses that have not been provided for in his programme budget, and have made voluntary contributions to support the work of the Organization as well as to facilitate the task of the Secretary-General in the exercise of his good offices. Bearing in mind the limitations by which the Secretary-General can commit resources to meet those challenges, and given the changing conditions in the political arena, a combination of funding from voluntary contributions and from his own commitment authority has been utilized in planning for the funding of unforeseen expenditures related to his good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-building in order not to deplete the ceiling of $5 million authorized by the General Assembly. Examples of activities funded from voluntary contributions are contained in table 2.

22. As shown in tables 1 and 2, the total cost of activities related to good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-building missions amounted to over $7 million in 1998 ($3,602,200 funded under the authority granted by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to enter into commitments and $3,410,900 funded from voluntary contributions). As at 15 October 1999, $4.9 million have already been utilized in 1999 for these activities, $4,037,900 from the $5 million commitment authority of the Secretary-General and $862,300 from voluntary contributions. If the estimated costs of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999 related to the establishment of expert panels on Angola ($1 million) and the costs related to the appointment of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Balkans ($1.4 million) were to be included in the 1999 requirements for unforeseen and

Table 1
Commitments authorized by the Secretary-General within the $5 million authority granted by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/223

	1998	*1999*	*Date of action take by Security Council*	*Reference document*
	(thousands of United States dollars)			
Technical survey mission to Sierra Leone	52.3		16 December 1997	S/1997/980
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Africa	1 560.8		19 December 1997	S/1997/995
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for the Guyana/Venezuela controversy	55.2		-	-
Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone	920.0		16 December 1997	S/1997/980
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor	329.9		-	-
United Nations Office in Bougainville	684.0		22 April 1998	S/PRST/1998/10
United Nations Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo		314.2	-	-
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo peace process		259.9	5 April 1999	S/1999/380
Security Council Panels on Iraq		331.1	30 January 1999	S/1999/100
United Nations Assistance to President Nyerere's Burundi peace process		262.0	19 October 1998	S/1998/969
Expert studies on ways of tracing violations of the measures regarding arms trafficking, oil supply and diamond trade, as well as movement of UNITA funds		93.4	18 February 1999	S/1999/168
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Iraq		209.8	9 March 1998	S/1998/214
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for East Timor		301.4	-	-
Security Council Mission to Indonesia		75.0	5 September 1999	S/1999/946
United Nations Peace-building Office in Guinea Bissau		2 147.2	6 April 1999	S/RES/1233 (1999)
United Nations information-gathering mission on Liberia		43.9	-	-
Total	**3 602.2**	**4 037.9**		

Table 2
Activities funded from voluntary contributions

	1998	*1999*
	(thousands of United States dollars)	
United Nations assistance to President Nyerere's Burundi peace process	688.7	
United Nations Political Office in Kinshasa	573.6	
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Iraq	706.3	
United Nations Office in Bougainville	353.9	
Mission of eminent persons to Algeria	47.2	
Mission to Cambodia for monitoring return of exiled leaders	758.5	
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General in Iraq		206.4
Arusha peace talks in Burundi		624.2
OAU mission on dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea		31.7
Total	**3 410.9**	**862.3**

extraordinary expenses, the total level of expenditures would amount to $7.3 million.

23. Fortuitous savings in the programme budget for other activities related to special political missions has made it possible to identify resources to accommodate those new activities in the Balkans and Angola without need for recourse to the provisions of the unforeseen and extraordinary expenses resolution. The possibility of situations arising during the remainder of 1999 that may require immediate action cannot be ruled out. Were it not for recourse to voluntary contributions and fortuitous savings, the Secretary-General would not have been able to respond to all urgent unforeseen activities in the current biennium.

24. While the financial assistance provided by individual Member States is acknowledged, it may also be noted that activities undertaken in the maintenance of peace and security remain the collective responsibility of all Member States. The costs related thereto should thus constitute an expense of the Organization and be subject to assessment on Member States. Voluntary contributions as supplementary funds should be only utilized in addition to, not in lieu of, assessed resources for activities related to the approved work programmes of the Organization.

25. The nature of the activities funded on the basis of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses has evolved over the years. Whereas in the past those activities have been confined to short missions or a series of missions undertaken by a small number of staff, more recently missions have involved the fielding of a more substantial group of staff for longer periods and often with greater operating costs. As shown in table 1, in 1998 initial commitments of $1.5 million were required for the Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region of Africa and his Special Envoy in Africa. In 1999, commitments of $2.1 million were required for the United Nations Peace-building Office in Guinea-Bissau.

26. In the light of considerations outlined above, the Secretary-General believes that the limit for commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security that the Secretary-General may enter into in any one year, without the prior concurrence of the Committee, should be raised from $5 million to $10 million.

III. Commitments authorized by the President of the International Court of Justice relating to certain expenses of the Court

27. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, the specific expenses and corresponding resource ceilings certified by the President of the International Court of Justice relating to certain expenses from the activities of the Court have varied from biennium to biennium, based on changing requirements in the activities of the Court.

28. In its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly noted that the estimates relating to the statutory entitlements of the members of the International Court of Justice were scheduled for a comprehensive review

by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, and, accordingly decided that any resource change resulting from decisions taken by the Assembly with regard to emoluments and other conditions of service for the members of the Court would be reported in the performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. At its fifty-third session, in part VIII of its resolution 53/214, the General Assembly, having considered the relevant reports of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/53/11) and the related report of the Committee (A/53/7/Add.6), approved the recommendations of the Committee on the emoluments, pension and other conditions of service of the members of the International Court of Justice; concurred with the observation made by the Committee regarding the revision of article 7, paragraph 2, of the pension scheme regulations for members of the International Court of Justice; and decided in that regard to amend article 7, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations for the members of the International Court of Justice to read as follows: "Pension in payment shall be automatically revised by the same percentage and at the same date as salary adjustments".

29. Based on the recommendation of the Committee contained in its report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session that the salary of the members of the Court be set at $160,000 (instead of $145,000) effective 1 January 1999, the related salary increase for the permanent members of the Court was requested in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 and reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. As indicated in paragraph 10 of the Committee's report, based on an increase to $160,000 in the annual salary of the members of the Court the additional requirements related to the salaries of ad hoc judges for 1999 were estimated at $30,000. On this basis and based on the proposals from the Court, it is estimated that the commitment authorized to the President of the Court for the appointment of ad hoc judges during the biennium 2000-2001 would need to be increased from the current level of $300,000 to $330,000.

30. On the commitments related to the calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts under article 50 of the statute and the appointment of assessors under article 30 of the statute, as well as commitments in respect of the maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected, the Court's agenda for 2000 is still under review. It estimates, however, that the possibility exists for expenditures under these items. Under these circumstances, it proposed that the ceilings of $50,000 and $40,000, respectively, be maintained.

31. Although provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for judges who had retired, including the increase in pensions as approved in General Assembly resolution 53/214, the pension and related costs of judges expected to retire during the next biennium will need to be met from the commitments authorized under unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. Based on the results of the election of judges of the Court in early November 1999, one judge was not re-elected. Moreover, the President of the Court is also expected to retire during the next biennium. In accordance with the revised pension scheme, as authorized in General Assembly resolution 53/214, the level of commitment required for the payment of pension of the President of the Court, who has been a member of the Court since 15 January 1981, is estimated at $193,000. The payment of pension of the one judge expected to retire is estimated at $144,200. Travel and removal expenses for the retiring member of the Court are estimated at $20,000; and travel and removal expenses and installation grant of the new members of the Court, assuming that they are accompanied by a spouse and one dependant, are estimated at $47,500. On this basis, total estimated requirements would amount to $404,700. Since it is difficult to predict the number of dependants who will accompany the new members of the court, it is proposed to increase the level of commitments under this item from $180,000 to $410,000.

32. Based on expenditure patterns since 1990, a maximum of $5,100 has been incurred for the work of the Court or its Chambers away from The Hague. The Court indicated that during the 1996-1997 biennium, the Court held sessions away from The Hague but expenses were reimbursed by the parties concerned. On the basis of the assumption that the parties may not reimburse the Court for sessions held away from The Hague and bearing in mind the expenditure pattern since 1990, a contingency provision of $25,000 is proposed under the resolution. This would reduce the ceiling from $50,000 to $25,000.

33. The changes proposed by the President of the International Court of Justice may be summarized as follows:

	Old limit	*New proposed limit*
	(United States dollars)	
Designation of ad hoc judges (statute, article 32	300 000	330 000
Calling of witness and the appointment of experts (statute, article 50) and the appointment of assessors (statute, article 30)	50 000	50 000
Maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected (statute, article 13, paragraph 3)	40 000	40 000
Payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges, and travel and removal expenses and installation grant of members of the Court (statute, article 32, paragraph 7)	180 000	410 000
Holding of sessions of the Court or its Chambers away from The Hague (statute, article 22)	50 000	25 000

IV. Commitments authorized for interorganizational security measures pursuant to section IV of General Assembly resolution 36/235

34. In its resolution 36/235, section IV, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in respect of inter-organizational security measures in an amount not to exceed $300,000 in any one biennium of the programme budget of the United Nations, initially under General Assembly resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, and to seek reimbursement from other organizations in accordance with the agreed cost-sharing formula. By resolution 46/187, the General Assembly increased the authorized ceiling of commitments related to inter-organization security measures from $300,000 to $500,000.

35. No resources were requested in this connection in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, resources were requested for the United Nations share of expenditures which were reasonably foreseeable and could be estimated with the required degree of accuracy, namely, the cost of life insurance coverage which had been obtained on a system-wide basis for staff members required to work in areas which, as determined by the United Nations Security Coordinator, might involve certain risk. The related resources were approved by the General Assembly in its appropriation resolution for that biennium. In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, provisions for the United Nations share of expenditures in respect of staff costs and operating costs funded on an inter-agency basis, theretofore sought on an *ex post facto* basis in the context of the performance report, were proposed to be included *ex ante* in the United Nations regular budget. The provision of resolutions on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses continued to apply to security expenses for those requirements which could not be foreseen at that stage, such as evacuation operations, provision of movable equipment for security purposes, short-term security personnel in an emergency and field security missions deemed necessary by the United Nations Security Coordinator. Similar provisions were made in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and 2000-2001.

36. The Secretary-General believes that a mechanism now exists whereby the United Nations share of those expenditures which could be foreseen are requested in the proposed programme budget for the biennium, and for those commitments which are impossible to determine, these are authorized for unforeseen expenditures

37. No change is proposed, therefore, to the ceiling of $500,000.

V. Commitments on a decision of the Security Council related to the maintenance of peace and security requiring the concurrence of the Committee and the convening of a session of the General Assembly

38. When the Security Council decides on activities related to peace and security other than peacekeeping (e.g., the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Commission of Inquiry in Burundi, the United Nations Administration Mission in East Timor), the Secretary-General may seek the concurrence of the Committee, under paragraph 3 of the resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, to enter into commitments for start-up activities prior to the preparation and submission of a budget for approval by the General Assembly. Preliminary cost estimates have to be prepared for seeking the Committee's concurrence.

39. At present the Advisory Committee may approve amounts of up to $10 million without immediate recourse to the General Assembly. If cost-of-living adjustments are

taken into account, the real value of the $10 million authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 1615 (XV) of 21 April 1961 would amount to $58 million at current costs. An increase in the level from $10 million to $25 million may be considered a reasonable augmentation of surge capacity to enable the Secretary-General to take immediate action, with prior concurrence of the Committee, for political missions, pending the preparation of budgetary requirements for approval by the General Assembly.

40. The General Assembly may therefore wish to decide that if a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security, the Secretary-General be authorized to enter into commitments, with the prior concurrence of the Committee, up to $25 million, in excess of which the Assembly would be convened to consider the matter.

VI. Action required by the General Assembly

41. Should the General Assembly decide to approve the proposals outlined above, the draft resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2000-2001, contained in the annex to the present report would reflect that decision.

Annex

Draft resolution
Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2000-2001

The General Assembly,

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and subject to the Financial Regulations of the United Nations and the provisions of paragraph 3 below, to enter into commitments in the biennium 2000-2001 to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses arising either during or subsequent to the biennium, provided that the concurrence of the Committee shall not be necessary for:

(a) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of 10 million United States dollars in any one year of the biennium 2000-2001, as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security;

(b) Such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by:

(i) The designation of ad hoc judges (statute of the International Court of Justice, article 31), not exceeding a total of 330,000 dollars;

(ii) The calling of witnesses and the appointment of experts (statute, article 50) and the appointment of assessors (statute, article 30), not exceeding a total of 50,000 dollars;

(iii) The maintenance in office for the completion of cases of judges who have not been re-elected (statute, article 13, paragraph 3), not exceeding a total of 40,000 dollars;

(iv) The payment of pensions and travel and removal expenses of retiring judges, and travel and removal expenses and installation grant of members of the Court (statute, article 32, paragraph 7), not exceeding a total of 410,000 dollars;

(v) The work of the Court or its Chambers away from The Hague (statute, article 22), not exceeding a total of 25,000 dollars;

(c) Such commitments, not exceeding a total of 500,000 dollars, in the biennium 2000-2001, as the Secretary-General certifies are required for inter-organizational security measures pursuant to section IV of General Assembly resolution 36/235 of 18 December 1981;

2. *Resolves* that the Secretary-General shall report to the Committee and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions all commitments made under the provisions of the present resolution, together with the circumstances relating thereto, and shall submit supplementary estimates to the Assembly in respect of such commitments;

3. *Decides* that for the biennium 2000-2001, if a decision of the Security Council results in the need for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to the maintenance of peace and security in an amount exceeding 25 million dollars in respect of the decision, that matter shall be brought to the General Assembly, or, if the General Assembly is suspended or not in session, a resumed or special session of the Assembly shall be convened by the Secretary-General to consider the matter.